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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the violation of the right to freedom of expression in Serbia issued on 3 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) António MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and Frenc

Statement on the violation of the right to freedom of expression in Serbia issued on 3 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is seriously concerned about the continued violation b the Serbian authorities of the right of free expression of opinion.

The public threats against the independent media show that the regime pursues an arbitrary and discriminatory policy to clamp down on independent voices.

The recent case of the indictment of Dusan Mihajlovic, President of the N Democracy Party, for allegedly spreading false information and disrupting law and order is the latest in a long series of attempts by the Serbian authoritie to muzzle freedom of speech.

The European Union reiterates its fundamental belief that the exercise of freedom of expression is one of the cornerstones of democracy and that the Serbian people should be allowed to freely express its political will.